



# News Release

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**Release 2003-50**

**IDAHO ENERGY DIVISION, COEUR d'ALENE TRIBE**  
**TO LAUNCH WIND POWER EVALUATION PROJECT**

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Can nature's wind provide a new source of economic development for the Coeur d'Alene Tribe?

That's what the Idaho Energy Division and Tribal leaders hope to learn from a wind power resource measurement project being launched jointly next week on the Coeur d'Alene Reservation.

Energy specialists will spend Wednesday and Thursday (Oct. 29 & 30) with tribal officials pouring over maps and wind assessment data to identify potential wind power development sites on the reservation. Then the group will visit the most promising sites to select a trio for location and installation of special wind measuring devices known as anemometers.

Energy Division officials hope to be able to install up to three anemometers on the Coeur d'Alene Reservation early next spring. The measuring devices, located on towers 66 feet high, would record wind data for a year or more. The data then could be used to evaluate the potential of the sites for wind power project development.

Very general wind power resource data prepared by the U.S. Department of Energy in 2002 suggests there may be several areas of the 345,000-acre reservation where winds resources could be suitable for wind power development. However, on site evaluation coupled with scientific data collection is needed to know for sure.

"I have been interested in the potential of wind energy development on our reservation for some time," said Leta Campbell, Coeur d'Alene Tribal Council member. "We're pleased that the Tribe and the State of Idaho are taking this important first step and I look forward to the results of this project."

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“We are delighted to be able to work with the Coeur d’Alene Tribe in this project. Wind power is the fastest growing energy sector in the country and Idaho is blessed with some of the best wind resources in the northwest,” said Cheryl Wilson, who heads the Coeur d’Alene tribal wind project for the Idaho Energy Division.

The Coeur d’Alene Tribe project is a continuation of the Idaho Tribal Wind Power program launched last spring by the Idaho Energy Division. The project is designed to help provide scientific data to Idaho tribes, which they can use to determine if wind power development is appropriate on their reservations.

Wind power measurements are currently under way on two other Idaho Indian Reservations: Fort Hall and Duck Valley. There are two anemometers measuring wind on Shoshone-Paiute lands at Duck Valley and five anemometers on Shoshone-Bannock lands at Fort Hall.